

Claims as amended by Preliminary Amendment filed 10/19/01

For the convenience of the Examiner and the Office all the claims pending in the above application are provided herewith.

1. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus including:

a first conventional shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber being adapted to contain produce to be fumigated, and

mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the conventional shipping container, the mobile fumigation means including:

fumigant inlet means operatively coupled to the container to allow a flow of a fumigant into the fumigation chamber;

extraction means also being operatively coupled to the container to remove a majority of the fumigant from the fumigation chamber; and

absorption means being operatively coupled to the extraction means, the absorption means being designed to absorb substantially all of the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber.

2. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a second shipping container.

3. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

4. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a partition wall in the first shipping container, the wall separating the mobile fumigation means and the fumigation chamber.

5. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the absorption means comprises an absorption bed including activated carbon [to

11. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of small diameter floor- and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via an appropriate system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in the control room.

12. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein the system control box contains a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit and power supply switches for mixing fans, exhaust fan, lights, gas heaters and valve actuators.

13. A method of fumigating produce, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a fumigation apparatus including a conventional shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber and a mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the container;

locating the produce to be fumigated in the fumigation chamber;

providing a flow of a fumigant to the fumigation chamber;

extracting at least some of the fumigation from the chamber; and

absorbing at least part of the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber.

14. A method of fumigating produce as defined in claim 13, wherein the fumigant extracted from the chamber is absorbed on an absorption bed.

15. (Amended) A method of fumigating produce as defined in claim [13 or] 14 further comprising washing at least part of the absorption bed to remove the absorbed fumigant.

16. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of first shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

17. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 16, wherein the fumigant inlet means is adapted to detachably couple to a mobile source of the fumigant.

18. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a system control box and a system of fumigant delivery pipes and valves adapted in use to deliver fumigant from a supply source to the fumigation chamber.

19. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 18, wherein the fumigant inlet means includes a dispersion pipe system located in the upper part of the fumigation chamber.

20. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 19,
wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of small diameter floor-and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via an appropriate system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in the control room .

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